

**Developmental Disabilities Council Minutes
Courtyard Marriott, Federal Way
March 17, 2006**

Present

George Walker (Chair), Leo Finnegan, Lori Flood, Vickie Foster, Larry Garman, Suzanne Gries, Mike Hatch, Shawn Latham, Alphonso Lee, John Lemus, Sara McQueed, Alicia McRae, Adrian Patayon, Michael Raymond, Leandro Razo, Greg Rodriguez, Laethan Wene, Janet Adams (DDD), Mark Harniss (UAP), Lou Colwell (OSPI), Mark Stroh (P&A), David Kludt (MHD), Diana McMaster (HRSA), Tabitha Harrison (DOH)

Absent

Bill Anderson, Erin Platts, Diana Zottman, Marijo Olson (CTED), Patty McDonald (ADS), Kelly Boston (DVR)

Guests

Sandra Latham

Staff

Ed Holen, Clare Billings, Linda Walling, Eva Rooks, Stephanie Benfield, Cathy Townley, Brian Dahl, Donna Patrick

Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

Minutes

Motion: Council approve the January 2006 minutes as written. Mike R. moved and Laethan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjustments to the Agenda

There were none.

Chair's Remarks

George thanked everyone for all their hard work during the legislative session. He reported that some DD issues did get better as the session progressed. There is still a lot of work to do to educate the legislature about DD issues.

Executive Director Remarks

Ed shared that Clare had surgery and recovery is going well.

He brought copies of the "Waiting Game" booklet for Council members. Please let Linda know if you would like additional copies. Ed stated that the woman and her son that are on the cover have already begun to receive services. The booklet will be used as a lead-in for the next legislative session.

A video was shown on the next step of the "Fair Hearing" series. The video showed the process to follow if you disagree with DDD's decisions on eligibility or services.

Ed reviewed the Council's 2006 budget. There is slightly more than a 1% reduction in funding from NACDD, just over \$13,000. So far, the Council has been able to absorb mandatory costs. However, the additional reduction will be absorbed through a voluntary staff reduction to half time. Ed is concerned that the 2007 budget outlook will be for additional cuts and at this time he is unsure where to take them.

Ed thanked Donna for all her hard work during the legislative session.

Donna reviewed the state budget and legislative issues (bills of interest). Ed summarized the 2006 supplemental budget. Both felt that it was a good session and that key advocacy organizations worked really well together.

Eva presented the updated Council website. She explained that it should be up and running by April 8th. Council members made some suggestions.

Overview of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

Lynnae Rutledge, the new DVR Director, spoke to the Council. She shared that her background is in DD and she has a deep knowledge of the issues. She was involved in Oregon State Vocational Rehabilitation for the past 15-18 years.

She feels that getting to know people, their backgrounds and experiences brings about change. Lynnae stated that DVR does need to change. She talked about a non-profit organization called Mobility International USA. They help people with all different disabilities to become an "exchange student or delegate" and visit other countries.

Lynnae would like to get to know the Council staff and its partners. She has already met with Ed. She met with the DDD Advisory Committee and got to hear their perspective as advocates.

Lynnae wants to figure out a way to get away from the current order of selection. DVR does have its own waiting lists. Many people are now waiting for services and DVR is

not able to serve any new customers. She would like to begin to hold public hearings. Lynnae will provide direct leadership for better partnering.

She talked about a pilot project between DDD and DVR to better leverage resources. Hopefully, better systems would help more people become employed.

Vocational Rehabilitation does have a fair hearing process similar to DDD's process. The process is to start with talking with the counselor and office Supervisor, along with using the Client Assistance Program and the fair hearing process.

Committee Reports

Public Policy Committee

Lori reported that the Committee discussed:

- Legislative information
- Interim activities
- Federal issues
- Employment

Governance Committee

Suzanne and Mike R. reported that the Committee discussed:

- The Executive Director feedback form

Committee Motion: Council approve Policy 405, Council Meeting Structure as revised. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Motion: Council approve Policy 403, Council Agenda Development as revised. The motion carried unanimously.

Membership Committee

Vickie reported that the Committee discussed:

- Development Day
- Attendance Policy
- The membership piece of the Council Charter

Shana Melanson, from the Governor's Office, attended the meeting. She shared the recruitment process that they follow.

They still are looking at applications to fill vacancies on the Council. Shana would like to find people to fill category gaps on the Council.

Agency Reports

Health and Recovery Services Administration (HRSA)

Diana M. reported that the President signed the Deficit Reduction Act on February 8, 2006. It contains a provision that would require all citizens applying for Medicaid or renewing their coverage to produce a passport or birth certificate and another piece of identification to prove they are a US citizen. It is scheduled to begin in July 2006. Washington and other states are asking questions and providing input on possible impacts.

Diana distributed information on HRSA programs and the supplemental budget.

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

Janet distributed copies of the new "Fair Hearings DVD/VHS" to all Council members.

She also updated the Council on recent changes at Central Office, with Doug Washburn, formerly County Coordinator for Kitsap County, joining the staff to take Colleen Erskine's place.

Janet provided the Council with handouts that update the new Family Support Pilot; progress on the DDD Assessment and the role that advocates have taken in working on it; and the Case Management Information System plans that are underway.

Janet shared data with the group as to what people who are taking the DDD Mini Assessment say they need in the way of referral and education. The mini assessment will continue until the new DDD Assessment goes "live" in March of 2007, when it will be replaced with a new client assessment that all clients of the Division will be using. It will gather much of the information collected by the Mini Assessment now.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Lou reminded Council members of the ombudsman position for special education at OSPI. Her name is Kristin Hennessey. She can be reached at 360-725-6075. She has been taking parent calls and she has also placed information about her position on the OSPI website at www.k12.wa.us/specialed/.

The Governor-appointed Caring for Washington Individuals with Autism Task Force has been meeting since November 2005. The task force members are currently collecting information in order to develop recommendations to the Governor. Proposed recommendations would be available for public comment in August 2006. The Council will be kept informed about when the comment period is.

Legislation requiring standards for education interpreters for deaf students in public schools was passed this past legislative session. OSPI is responsible for convening a group of individuals with expertise in this area to develop the standards.

One of the results of the Center for Public Policy study on the Washington State School for the Deaf and Washington State School for the Blind is a small group of individuals meeting to review and make recommendations on how to build state capacity to serve students in Washington schools. Current members of the group are representatives from OSPI, both State Schools, and Washington Sensory Disabilities Services (an OSPI state needs project). The group is currently collecting data from all the possible sources to determine the need. The Council will be kept informed as the group proceeds with its work.

Department of Health (DOH)

Tabitha reported that the Disability and Health program, a partnership between the DOH, the University of Washington Center for Disability Policy and Research (CDPR), and four Washington communities, will begin the last year of a 5 year Center for Disability Control grant in April. The program will continue to prevent secondary health conditions among people with disabilities by addressing state and local capacity to measure disability, access by people with limitations, participation of adults with disabilities in their community, and disparities in employment rates between working-aged adults with and without disabilities. The Washington State Disability and Health program goals are to:

- A. Collect and disseminate data about the extent and impact of disability in Washington State,
- B. Make and influence policy to promote the well-being and participation of people with disabilities, and
- C. Develop, implement and evaluate interventions in four Washington counties (Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Spokane).

Mental Health Division (MHD)

David reported that the MHD was pleased with the passage of SB 6630 (Community Protection). He said that they are continuing to work with WPAS on the Allen Lawsuit regarding people at Western State Hospital. SHB 2912, which would have required two crisis workers responding to in home visits/evaluations, did not pass. Safety of mental health workers remains a significant concern. The Mental Health Division will be hosting 4 safety summits through out the state over the next 6-8 months.

The State Behavioral Health Conference (June 14-16) in Wenatchee is a great opportunity for consumers, advocates, service providers & administrators to network and here about best practices both state and nationally.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities will again be sponsoring a five-workshop track and keynote speaker to address issues related to serving consumers with disabilities. MHD is hoping to make available two scholarships for DD Council participation.

University Affiliated Program (UAP)

Mark H. discussed the new CHDD program guide, which details all programs, faculty and staff at the UCEDD. Copies are available at http://depts.washington.edu/chdd/ucedd/UCEDD_Prog_Proj_guide2006.pdf.

He also talked about the 2005 Clinical Services Guide, which gives an overview of all clinical services provided at the UCEDD. Copies are available at http://depts.washington.edu/chdd/ucedd/CS_AnnualReport_2005.pdf.

Mark talked about a new DVD on the topic of Accessible Information Technology in Education. Copies can be purchased at <http://www.washington.edu/accessit/betterfuture.php>.

Protection and Advocacy (P&A)

Mark announced that the case known as GR had just been settled and he asked for time on a future agenda to discuss it in more detail. The case involved the due process rights of persons with developmental disabilities in eligibility determination cases where there is a right of appeal.

He also thanked Ed Holen for his role in convincing Senator Kline to champion the inclusion of \$300,000 to be used for legal services for persons in the Community Protection Program (CPP) or persons being considered for placement in the CPP.

With that the meeting was adjourned.